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Proceedings of the Club.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 24, 1897.

President Brown presided, and 11 persons were present.

The first paper of the evening was by Mr. Marshall A. Howe, "The Genus *Anthoceros* in North America," and was illustrated by drawings and specimens. The paper which will soon appear in print, described three new species and reviewed the species before recognized of which latter two only occur in the Gray's Manual region, *A. laevis* and *A. punctatus*. Mr. Howe also indicated the intermediate position of *Anthoceros* between the Hepaticae and Musci, and discussed its increased sporophyte-development, looking upward toward the Pteridophyta. The life-history of *Anthoceros* was illustrated by figures, beginning with the roughened yellow or blackish spore.

By C. F. Austin, the cognate genus *Notothylas* was united with *Anthoceros*; but it lacks stomata and differs in its capsule form, direction and position. Austin's herbarium was sold in England, and now belongs in part to the bryologist Pearson, and in part to the Owens College, Manchester.

Discussion by President Brown and others followed. Dr. Underwood remarked that he had known *Notothylas* spores, unlike those of *Anthoceros*, to germinate without resting-period. *Anthoceros laevis* he finds among the hemlocks at the Botanical Garden, and elsewhere in moist, flat, sandy and grassy land, fruiting August to November. In California, said Mr. Howe, they occur on banks and in springy places, beginning to fruit in February and shriveling in May. One of the species of the Californian coast formerly confused with the *A. caespiticius* of De Notaris, is found by Mr. Howe to develop curious globose storage-bodies, serving as food reservoirs to carry the plant over the dry season.

The second communication was by Dr. T. F. Allen, entitled "Contributions to the Japanese Characeae," composed in fact of four papers, soon to be printed, descriptive mainly of certain Japanese *Nitella*-forms displaying interesting correspondences with our

own. Dr. Allen then proceeded to exhibit numerous mounted specimens and etchings, and spoke of the taxonomic characters. Spore-characters though important are not to be relied on exclusively. Measurements of any one species prove very constant. In some the form of the mucro terminating each ray is decisive. The spores afford specific characters both by their arrangement and their markings, as shown by a $\frac{1}{12}$ or $\frac{1}{15}$ immersion lens. Their reticulations are very constant. The spirals which invest the spores are very early formed, from the five bracts which form a cup about it and soon become spirally twisted, as all parts of the Characeae do, and as the protoplasm current does even before its cell has become twisted. Discussing their life-history, Dr. Allen said that the Characeae increase in part by nutrition dependent on absorption of their radicles. If these short unicellular radicles are broken in collecting, the plant will finally die after the lower cells have yielded up their contents toward the maintenance of the others. *Chara coronata*, the finest of all in showing circulation, survived in his aquarium half a year without any rooting. *Nitella flexilis* will, however, root in the aquarium, produce spores, germinate and make a protonema which divides immediately into an upward ray-bearing axis and a descending root-bearing portion.

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 1897.

President Brown in the chair, and 15 persons present.

The Secretary read the reply of the Board of Trustees of the College of Pharmacy to his letter of October 28, 1897, requesting for the Club the privilege of holding its meetings at that College. The reply, dated December 3, 1897, stated that "by a unanimous vote of the Board your request for the use of our rooms for meeting purposes was granted." Thos. J. MacMahan, Chairman of Curators.

Mr. Charles J. Saunders, of Philadelphia, Pa., was elected an active member.

Dr. Britton proposed to amend Section III. of the Constitution by the substitution of the word "seven" for the word "five" in line 4, so as to read, "Associated Editors not to exceed seven in number."

President Brown appointed a special committee to consider this proposed amendment Dr. Britton, Dr. Underwood, Dr. Rusby and the Secretary.

Judge Brown announced the members of the Committee on Program for 1898 as follows: Dr. Rusby, Mrs. Britton, Dr. C. C. Curtis.

The first paper, by Prof. Francis E. Lloyd, "On an Abnormal Cone of *Pseudotsuga mucronata*," discussed the structure of a cone recently observed on a leader of the Douglas Spruce. He figured and described certain lateral expansions of the bracts, remarking on their possible stipular nature.

Remarks were made by Judge Brown, Dr. Britton, Dr. Rusby, Mr. Howe and Dr. Underwood.

The second paper, by Mr. E. O. Wooton, "Botanizing in New Mexico during the Summer of 1897," gave an entertaining and graphic narrative of this collecting trip made by Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Wooton in Doña Ana and Lincoln Counties, N. M., in last June, July and August. The route extended from the Rio Grande valley at Mesilla near the Mexican line, at an elevation of 3900 feet, to Sierra Blanca Peak, at 11000 feet. Special interest attached to the collections made from the southern end of the White Sands, a region about 30×6 miles or more in area, not before explored by a botanist, except that a half dozen plants had been gathered on its margin by Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, of Mesilla. This vast expanse of sand, seeming like a sea of white, is moving slowly to the east. Even its lizards are white. Several new grasses were obtained here, and other very peculiar species. Very extensive collections were made in this trip, though with great hindrance from the summer rains.

Discussion brought out the great dissimilarity existing between neighboring floras in New Mexico. Mr. Wooton's collections numbered about 600 species. Mr. A. A. Heller, collecting meanwhile about 250 miles northward, among 300 numbers had but about 50 duplicates of these, and Dr. Rusby collecting some time ago at a similar distance west, among 450 species duplicated only about the same number.

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 10, 1898.

President Rusby presided, and there were 22 persons present.

The favorable report of the committee to consider an amendment to the Constitution followed. The Secretary announced the change proposed, viz. to substitute "seven" for "five" in line 4 of Article 3 of the Constitution; thus increasing the number of associate editors from five to seven.

The annual reports of the officers and of the standing committees were tendered as follows:

The Treasurer, Mr. Ogden, reported a cash balance on hand of \$116.93 in the general fund and \$532.28 in the Buchanan fund.

The Recording Secretary, Prof. Burgess, reported an average attendance of 35 at the 15 meetings held during the year, one death, a present active membership of 213, corresponding membership 153, honorary membership 4, total 370. The 30 scientific papers presented have included many taxonomic subjects, and a good proportion of physiological, cryptogamic and morphological topics.

The Editor, Dr. Britton, reported the regular monthly publication of the BULLETIN, including 592 pages, 33 plates and one portrait; and the publication of Vol. 6, No. 2 of the *Memoirs*, containing 80 pages; issued July 30, 1897. The Editor also reported a cash balance remaining to the credit of the BULLETIN.

The Curator, Miss Ingersoll, reported valuable additions to the herbarium from Ulster county, and exhibited a completed list of desiderata prepared in accordance with the resolution of the Club of January 12, 1897.

Dr. Small reported for the field Committee, that field meetings were arranged for every Saturday from April 24 to October 30, and also on election day; 29 excursions in all. These were usually half-day excursions, with four for the whole day, and four of two days each. They have extended into the neighboring mainland of New York, into Long Island, Staten Island, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The average attendance upon the excursions was about 16, and the average number of plants specially recorded 48.

Dr. Rusby, in behalf of the Committee on Program, announced

arrangements in progress relative to presentation of several interesting topics before the Club by botanists from other cities.

One active member, Dr. C. O. Townsend, and one corresponding member, Dr. Arthur M. Edwards, were elected.

Next followed the annual election, resulting in the reelection of the previous officers with the exception of the editor, treasurer and librarian, who declined reelection. L. M. Underwood was elected editor; F. E. Lloyd and C. C. Curtis, associate editors; M. L. Delafield, jr., treasurer, and P. A. Rydberg, librarian. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the presentation of miscellaneous notes.

Professor Lloyd spoke of the work of Professor L. H. Bailey upon the origin of the cultivated strawberry and tomato, and exhibited specimens to indicate that *Fragaria Chilensis* is the source of the cultivated strawberry. He also exhibited the original specimen of the strawberry known as the Hovey, and a series of specimens indicating the development of varieties of the tomato.

Dr. Rusby spoke of his experience with the *Fragaria Chilensis* as cultivated in the Bolivian Andes, where, at 10,000 feet altitude its growth is luxuriant, standing up nearly to the knees. Its fruit is large and juicy, does not keep well, and is without flavor or fragrance. Its identity with the coast form was questioned by Dr. Britton.

Dr. Rusby also exhibited a sample of *Fragaria Mexicana* by some identified with *F. Chilensis* and by others with *F. vesca*, but which keeps well and is highly flavored.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.